

Measure Up

Assessment news for fourth-grade teachers

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Did you know?

- In 1969, the first NAEP assessment was given to 9-, 13-, and 17-year-old students in citizenship, science, and writing.
- In 1996, NAEP implemented a change in procedures to increase the inclusion of students with disabilities and English language learners.
- In 2007, a sample of fourth-graders nationwide will take the reading or mathematics assessment.

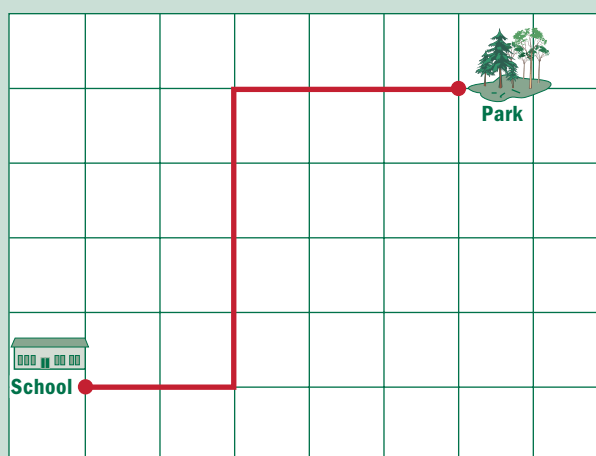
Using NAEP in Your Classroom

With each release of NAEP results, selected items from each assessment are also released. Teachers can access the items, answer keys and scoring guides, sample student responses, and national and state performance results of fourth-grade students using the NAEP Questions Tool at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrls>. The Questions Tool includes both multiple-choice and constructed-response items for all NAEP subjects and grades. Below, read about how to use released mathematics items.

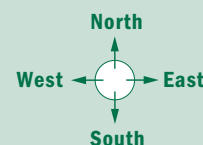
In 2005, fourth-graders were asked to answer the question pictured below. The mathematical content area for this question is geometry. The mathematical complexity for this map question was low. This category relies heavily on the recall and recognition of previously learned concepts and principles.

(Continued on page 3.)

The map below shows how to go from school to the park. Complete the written directions that are started below.



1 block



Directions:

Go 2 blocks east. _____



To see the
NAEP assessment
frameworks, visit
[http://www.nagb.org/
pubs/pubs.html](http://www.nagb.org/pubs/pubs.html)

Different Assessments, Different Purposes

A variety of assessments are used by teachers, parents, students, and policymakers to improve education and evaluate achievement. Quality assessments can help: teachers focus classroom instruction; parents identify their child's strengths and weaknesses; students monitor their own progress; and policymakers evaluate programs. From classroom and unit assessments to national assessments, the results benefit everyone.

Teacher-directed, or classroom, assessment is necessary to determine the individual progress of students, the quality of the curriculum, and the effectiveness of teaching strategies. The challenging classroom contains a variety of assessment strategies which guarantee that students are evaluated in many ways. The teacher observes students at work, and, using rubrics, evaluates group collaboration, judges presentations, measures responses to discussion questions, and assesses writing, for example.

District and state assessments also play an important role in the assessment cycle.

These assessments are used to evaluate programs and identify areas of curriculum or testing that need improvement. They also provide individual scores for students, schools, and districts.

On the national and state level, The Nation's Report Card, or NAEP, provides performance data for fourth-graders for many subjects based on an assessment framework. It is given throughout the country to a sample of students from each state, which allows NAEP to track national and state scores over time. NAEP measures what students know and are able to do.

	Teacher-directed assessments	District- and State-directed assessments	NAEP
What is the level of reporting?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual student at all grades 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students Classes Schools Districts State at various grades 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> States and certain large urban districts at grades 4 and 8 Nation at grade 12
Who are the audiences for the results?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers Students Parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers Students Parents Administrators Policymakers General public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General public Policymakers School administrators Teachers Researchers
What can teachers do with the results?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine content mastery for individual students Evaluate effectiveness of teaching strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate program effectiveness Identify areas of curricular strength and weakness Track progress of student groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track the progress of student groups over time Identify achievement gaps between student groups

Using NAEP in Your Classroom

(Continued from page 1.)

Items typically specify what the student is to do, which is often to carry out some procedure that can be performed mechanically. It is not left to the student to come up with an original method or solution.

The NAEP mathematical framework guides the development of questions for the mathematics assessment. The framework is adopted by the National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB) and is available at www.nagb.org. The NAEP mathematics framework specifies five content areas: number properties and operations, measurement, geometry, data analysis and probability, and algebra. There are two complexities: low and moderate.

A student response rated correct for this question is: "Go 4 blocks north, then go 3 blocks east." A student response rated incorrect is: "Go East, than North, than East [sic]." For this question, 68 percent of students in public and nonpublic

schools gave a correct answer. Thirty percent of students gave an incorrect answer. Two percent of students did not answer the question.

Teachers can use released fourth-grade items such as this in their classrooms. A search of fourth-grade mathematics items also includes questions like those shown below.

Teachers could assemble a document for their students that include the test questions as they appeared in the original assessment. Once students answered the questions, they could score their responses using the scoring guide provided by NAEP. By using a set of released items in the classroom, teachers can see how their students compare to students nationwide and in their state. To access all released items, visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard> and select "Sample Questions."



- To use released fourth-grade items in the classroom, teachers should visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard> and select "Sample Questions."
- From there, teachers can select "Search Options" and then a subject and grade 4. A series of questions will appear, and teachers can review the questions, sample student responses, and performance data for students nationwide.

Which of these is equal to $8,000 + 800 + 8$?

- A) 8,088
- B) 8,808
- C) 8,880
- D) 8,888

Jo's recipe says to bake a cake for 25-28 minutes. About how long is this?

- A) A quarter of an hour
- B) Half an hour
- C) An hour
- D) An hour and a half

Jan entered four numbers less than 10 on his calculator. He forgot what his second and fourth numbers were. This is what he remembered doing.

$$8 + \boxed{} - 7 + \boxed{} = 10$$

List a pair of numbers that could have been the second and fourth numbers. (You may use the number tiles to help you.)

What is NAEP?

NAEP stands for the National Assessment of Educational Progress. You may know it as The Nation's Report Card. It's the only national assessment that shows what students across the country know and can do in subjects such as reading and mathematics. It is different from your state assessments because it represents fourth-graders across the country.

How can I encourage students' participation?

Remind students that NAEP is important. When NAEP results are reported in the news, they influence the public's opinion of the quality of education that we are providing to our students. Encouraging your students to participate and do their best gives them the opportunity to show how well America's students are performing.

What do I have to do?

Your students will need to be out of class for a little more than 90 minutes to participate in NAEP. You do not have to do anything to prepare for the assessment; you just need to release students from class and encourage them to do their best. Students are selected to represent fourth-graders across your state. They can help show the country how much American and your state's students know and can do.

If you want to...

Visit...

Learn more about NAEP results

The Nation's Report Card at
<http://nationsreportcard.gov>

View NAEP data for a particular state or contact your NAEP State Coordinator

The National Center for Education Statistics at
<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states>

Access specific results for a grade level, subject, jurisdiction, and/or student groups

The NAEP Data Explorer at
<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nde>

Find information regarding the types of questions used on NAEP assessments or to view subject-specific questions

The NAEP Questions Tool at
<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrls>

Download a Sample Questions Booklet that contains sample test questions for the upcoming and previous assessments

The National Center for Education Statistics at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/booklets.asp>

Learn more about how policy is drafted for each NAEP assessment

The National Assessment Governing Board at
<http://www.nagb.org>

Offer a comment or suggestion on NAEP

The National Center for Education Statistics mailbox at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/contactus.asp>

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